



PADSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Year ending 31st. December 1951.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

J.Reed. M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

A.F.Buller. A.R.S.I.



Mr.Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the Medical Officer of Health for 1951.

The report for an Urban District of the size of Padstow must obviously be short, and there can be little of statistical significance which would influence the Council in its decisions. Opinion must largely rest upon personal impression. This report is further hampered by the prolonged illness of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Baller, from whom information relating to certain items is normally obtained. Mr.Sharpe, your temporary Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector has obtained what information he could for inclusion in the report.

Change in any form is usually fundamentally disliked by us all, but so long as change occurs sufficiently slowly to be virtually unrecognised, then it is readily accepted. Deterioration is that type of insidious change which marks a large proportion of the dwelling houses in Padstow, and which has made them uninhabitable by normal standards. The radical change of closure or demolition appears to be unacceptable to the majority of councillors, but it would appear to be the ultimate and most satisfactory solution to the problem. The Council is faced with two other major issues concerning services which have not kept pace with public demand. They are sewerage and water supplies. Both are likely to be hampered by financial difficulties, but the need for improvement becomes increasingly urgent. Whatever historic or sentimental values these premises and installations may have, they cannot be condoned in the interests of Public Health.

1. STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area in Acres.	3,343
Number of Inhabited Houses.	910
Rateable Value.	£21,111
Product of Penny Rate.	£85
Estimated Mid-Year Population.	2,713
Comparability factors (a) Births.	0.98
(b) Deaths.	0.72

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

Number of Registered Live Births, 1951.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	30	24	54
Illegitimate	-	1	1
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Total.	<u>30</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>55</u>
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Birth Rate per 1,000 population			20.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 population England & Wales.			15.5

Still Births.

No still-births were recorded during 1951.

Infant Deaths.

Two male legitimate infants died, both within the first month of life.

Deaths.

Number of Registered Deaths, 1951.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	21	27	48
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population			14.0
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population England & Wales.			12.5

Causes of Death.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Heart Disease.	8	14	22
Intracranial Vascular Diseases.	1	6	7
Respiratory Diseases (excluding tuberculosis)	5	1	6
Cancer.	2	3	5
Respiratory Tuberculosis.	1	-	1
Non-respiratory Tuberculosis.	1	-	1
Other Diseases.	3	3	6
	<u>21</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>48</u>

Distribution of Ages at Death.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
0 - 1 month.	2	-	2
1 month - 1 year.	-	-	-
1 year - 20 years.	1	-	1
21 - 40.	-	1	1
41 - 60.	5	1	6
61 - 70.	7	7	14
71 - 80.	2	7	9
81 - 90.	4	8	12
90 and over.	-	3	3
	<u>21</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>48</u>

11. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

West Cornwall Hospital Management Committee Services.

Hospitals. The nearest hospital accommodation is in Bodmin, which also provides an out-patient department for the major specialist services. No resident Medical Officer is attached to the hospital which has therefore limited value from an emergency point of view. More comprehensive services are obtained from the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, and occasionally from the Plymouth group of hospitals. Maternity accommodation is available at Redruth, supplemented by the ante-natal and gynaecological out-patients' department held in Wadebridge.

Cornwall County Council Services.

The services provided by the County Council under Part III National Health Services Act, 1946, were not modified during the year. In general the services were adequately provided. The Infant Welfare centre was well attended throughout the year. The decline in diphtheria immunisation showed a considerable improvement, 30 of a possible 40 children born in 1950 having completed a course of immunisation.

3 111. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies.

Sampling of the town's water supply continued regularly throughout the year. Increased chlorination recommended as a result of previous samples, provided a much more satisfactory water as regards bacterial content. The major problem of quantity still remains. Further progress has been made on the Council's proposed impounding reservoir, but it has not yet been determined whether this scheme or the De Lank will finally be the choice. In the meantime the town continues to be deprived of an adequate water supply, and the St. Merryn camp continues to use a most unsatisfactory source.

TABLE 1.

Water Samples, 1951.

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Probable Number of Coliform Organisms.</u>	<u>Probable Number of Faecal Coli.</u>
3.1.51.	0	0
10.1.51.	0	0
17.1.51.	0	0
14.2.51.	0	0
21.2.51.	0	0
11.3.51.	0	0
18.4.51.	0	0
6.6.51.	0	0
18.7.51.	0	0
26.9.51.	50	14
10.10.51.	3	0
17.10.51.	180+	0
14.11.51.	8	0
21.11.51.	8	0
5.12.51.	0	0

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No major extensions were carried out during the year. The resolution of the Council to prepare a scheme for a more suitable sewerage system was again handicapped by the illness of the Surveyor and no progress was possible during 1951. Further additions of new properties both of Council houses and Naval Married quarters continues to overload the present system.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The Council's provisions improved during the year by the use of the Credis Mine for disposal. The order of a new refuse collection vehicle of approved design was also an encouraging feature. Improvement is still desirable however in relation to the standard of containers used by many householders.

Rodent Control.

The Council is a member of the Joint Rodent Control Committee, whose operative is responsible for the supervision of rodent control in the Urban District. Complaint from the Customs House revealed the occupation, in most insanitary circumstances, of premises above. Occupation of these premises was terminated without statutory action, and the source of infestation was removed. There were no other complaints during the year.

IV. FOOD AND DRUGS.

Food and Food Preparation.

Thirty-four inspections of food and food preparing premises were made. The following food-stuffs were disposed of as unfit for human consumption:-

373 lbs tinned meat and ham, 392 lbs fish, 134 tins canned food other than meat and 6½lbs cheese.

Ice-Cream.

No new registrations for the sale of ice-cream were made and no samples were submitted for examination.

Food Sampling.

The County Council inspectors submitted 11 milk samples and 9 samples of other food-stuffs to the Public Analyst. No cases of adulteration were reported.

V. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No visits were paid to the 16 registered premises during the year. No complaints were received from H.M. Inspectors.

VI. HOUSING.

There were no steps taken regarding the large proportion of slum properties in the town. The greatest handicap is undoubtedly the slow rate of building progress. The Council completed eight traditional type houses during the year, a rate which will never solve the housing needs of the town, even if it will keep pace with the present deterioration of existing premises. The Council unfortunately abandoned its intention to build prefabricated dwellings in favour of the more time consuming traditional types. The rapid rate of house building observed on the Naval estates must, by comparison, evoke considerable comment from the many unsatisfactorily housed residents of Padstow.

VII. PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified Infectious Diseases.

Excluding tuberculosis the only infectious diseases notifiable were measles 90, scarlet fever 1, dysentery 1, There were no reported cases of anterior poliomyelitis. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified and two of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. One death occurred in each category. The register at the end of the year was as follows:-

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Total.</u>
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
Cases on Register at 31.12.50.	9	2	1	1	13
New cases notified during 1951.	1	-	2	-	3
Transferred to Urban District.	-	-	-	-	-
Total Entries.	10	2	3	1	16
Deaths.	1	-	1	-	2
Discharges.	-	-	-	-	-
Removed from Urban District.	2	-	-	-	2
Remaining Cases.	7	2	2	1	12

The scheme for protecting tuberculin negative contacts was introduced during 1951. Much of the preliminary work of testing had been done. In the 9 households involved contacts were all positive in 7. There were 4 tuberculin negative contacts requiring protection. Three of these refused and the remaining case could not be segregated. No contacts could therefore be vaccinated.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED.

Medical Officer of Health.

